

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claims 1-19 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,719,462; Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Blackman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,029,020, hereinafter Blackman); and Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackman in view of Goto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,225,881, hereinafter Goto).

Briefly recapitulating, Claim 1 is directed to an inkjet recording apparatus that includes a) a housing; b) an inkjet recording head arranged to eject ink drops onto front and back surfaces of a recording sheet; and c) a sheet feeding mechanism configured and adapted for feeding at least a portion of a recording sheet to a location outside of the housing to expedite drying of the ink drops after the first side of the sheet has been printed, and for feeding the dried printed sheet back into the housing for printing on the second side of the sheet. A rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 requires the claims in the two documents to be identical. However, U.S. Patent No. 6,719,462 cited in the Official Action recites claims with different limitations. Therefore, Applicants submit the rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is improper as Applicants' pending claims and the allowed claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,719,462 are directed to different inventions.

Applicants file herewith a certified translation of priority document JP 10-165331, which was filed on June 12, 1998. Because Applicants' date of invention is before the March 31, 1999 filing date of Blackman, Applicants submit the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) has been overcome.

Accordingly, in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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